

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /128 W

----- 079129

R 021240Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3406

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4279

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: VARIATION ON WAR TALK THEME

1. M.G. AVRAHAM ADAN, FORMER O.C. SOUTHERN FRONT AND
NEWLY DESIGNATED MILATT IN ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON,
PAID COURTESY CALL ON ME THIS MORNING. DURING COURSE OF
CONVERSATION I ASKED ADAN HIS VIEWS ON THE REASONS FOR THE
RECENT BARRAGE OF " WAR TALK" EMANATING FROM GOI OFFICIALS
(DATT IS REPORTING DETAILS OF CONVERSATION IN SEPTTEL).
SPECIFICALLY, WHAT INFO OR INTELLIGENCE DID ISRAEL HAVE THAT WE
APPEARED TO LACK WHICH LED TO GOI LEADERS TO BELIEVE--OR
APPEAR TO BELIEVE
THAT THE ARABS WERE PLANNING TO RENEW
HOSTILITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS. IN THIS RESPECT I ADDED,
ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PRESS, THE GOI SEEMS TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT
SYRIA HAD DECIDED TO FIGHT AGAINST AN EXTENSION OF UNDOF LATER
THIS YEAR. I NOTED THAT, IF THIS WERE THE CASE, THE NEWS
SEEMS WELL HIDDEN FROM THE SYRIAN PRESS AND PUBLIC. (I VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED DAMASCUS 1557.)

2. IN REPLY ADAN FIRST REPEATED PARTY LINE AS EXPRESSED BY
RABIN, PERES, GUR, ET AL, HE THEN SAID THAT HE COULD CONCEIVE
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OF A SYRIAN ATTACK WITHOUT EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTUAL

FIGHTING, PROVIDING THAT EGYPT MOVED LARGE FORCES TO EAST BANK OF SUEZ AND WAS BELIEVABLY THEATENING, THUS FORCING IDF TO COMMIT LARGE FORCES TO SINAI. IN THIS RESPECT, HE CREDITED EGYPT WITH A CURRENT CAPABILITY TO DEPLOY 5 OR 6 DIVISIONS TO EAST BANK OVERNIGHT (4 OR 5 HOURS). ADAN NOTED THAT THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WAS CONTINUALLY TRAINING SMALL UNITS IN CANAL CROSSING EXERCISES. THERE WAS NOTHING PARTICULARLY SINISTER ABOUT THIS IN ITSELF, HE NOTED, BUT IT SUPPORTED HIS BELIEF THAT THE EGYPTIANS COULD INDEED MOVE LARGE FORCES QUICKLY ACCROSS THE CANAL TO MAN ENTRENCHED POSITIONS WHICH HE MAINTAINED WERE ALREADY PREPARED.

3. COMMENT: ADAN HAS JUST RELINQUISHED HIS COMMAND OF THE SOUTHERN FRONT. WE ASSUME THAT CONCERN HE EXPRESSED RE POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN "NON-COMBAT" PARTICIPATION IN NEW WAR WITH SYRIA REPRESENTS MORE THAN HIS PERSONAL VIEW. AT ANY RATE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD THIS HERE.
KEATING

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NNN

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